AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.9 (3), May-September, 2023 https://ajemates.org

USE OF MILITARY UNIFORM AND VEHICLES BY TERRORISTS AND THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN X-RAY OF THE DILEMMA FOR NIGERIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Abubakar Musa
Department of Science Education,
Faculty of Education, Federal University, Wukari, Nigeria
abubakarmusa@fuwukari.edu.ng; 07034581209
&
Sani Dantani Manga
Department of Educational Foundations,
Faculty of Education and Extension Services,
Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto
dantani.sani@udusok.edu.ng; 08020527038

ABSTRACT

This paper examined the use of military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists and the future of school security in Nigeria. The use of military uniforms and vehicles by bandits and Boko haram has complicated the security situation in the country, coupled with sabotage by some unpatriotic state security personnel. The paper used secondary data sourced online to back up the points raised because online source provides current data on the insecurity situation in Nigeria. The paper discusses the reasons, sources, and consequences of using military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists as well as the future of school security in Nigeria. Tactics to get access to targets, traps set for victims of terrorist attacks, etc. were identified as some of the reasons for using military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists. The sources of the uniforms and vehicles were identified as attacks on military formations and supplies from other international terrorist groups, among others. Increases in dropout, security challenges, military funding, etc. were also outlined as some of the consequences of using military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists. The challenges of school security identified include, inadequate deployment of security personnel, inadequate orientation of school administrators, among others. It was suggested that the government should adopt a more proactive and collaborative approach to school security in Nigeria.

Keywords: *School security, military uniforms, vehicles, terrorists, dilemma*

Introduction

Military uniforms are looked upon with high respect and awe by citizens, as anybody wearing a military uniform is considered a Very Important Person (VIP) and seen as a protector of lives and properties. However, in recent times terrorists have capitalized on this sentiment and are now bold enough to use military uniforms to execute their nefarious activities and confuse the citizenry. The use of military uniform and vehicles by terrorists groups to disguise as military personnel to attack military formations and civilians on highways, educational institutions and other strategic locations is a very rampant global crisis in the fights against terrorists. Nabih (2021) reported that the Taliban group were seen dressed up and equipped in US military gear and roaming inside the premises of Kabul International Airport. Various videos surfaced on social media depicting the

Taliban terrorists wearing US military uniforms along with arms and ammo.

In another related development, it was stated by Wikipedia (2013) that during the attack in Gujba College in Yobe State, one of the survivors reported that the attackers drove into the college in two double-cabin pickup all-terrain vehicles. Some of the attackers were wearing Nigerian military uniforms. It was also reported by Tsokar (2016) that the troops of the 7 Brigade Nigerian Army in Maiduguri Borno state during an ambush in Dawashi killed seven suspected terrorists and recovered military uniforms and other items such as "1 Peugeot Station Wagon loaded with 2,010 litres of Premium Motor Spirit packed in 67 Jerri cans, uniforms, some materials and Improvised Explosive making Devices (IEDs), …dry cell batteries, 1 AK-47 rifle, tools and fish" (paras. 4-5). Sahara reporters (2020) also reported that the Nigerian Army has reportedly lost one soldier in an ambush by Boko Haram insurgents, who appeared in military uniforms, were said to have mounted a roadblock on the highway in Borno State. Similarly, Owolabi (2021) reported that the bandits terrorising the northwestern states in Nigeria were often seen in military uniforms. In view of the above therefore, this paper examines the reasons for using military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists, sources of military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists and the consequences on the future of school security in Nigeria.

Military Uniform has been defined by Definitions.net as "the standardised dress worn by members of the armed forces and paramilitaries of various nations. Military dress and military styles have gone through great changes over the centuries from colourful and elaborate to extremely utilitarian. Military uniforms in the form of standardised and distinctive dress, intended for identification and display, are typically a sign of organised military forces equipped by a central authority." (Military Uniform**,** n.d., Para. 1)



Figure 1: picture of Boko haram terrorists in military uniform and vehicles
Source: Google as cited in Sahara reporters (2021, para. 2)

Terrorism is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations as "the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social

objectives" (28 C.F.R. Section 0.85 as cited in Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI], 2022). A terrorist is a person involved in the use of force and violence against persons or property to coerce the government or the citizens in order to achieve certain objectives. The concept of security has been defined by Morgan (2021) as "the protection of individuals, organizations, and properties against external threats that are likely to cause harm" (Mubita, 2021, p. 78). Therefore, school security can be defined as the protection of all educational stakeholders (school head, teachers, students, parents, etc.) within the school premises and the school plant generally(buildings, facilities, materials, equipment, grounds, etc.) against any kind of external threats that are likely to cause harm. Security threats commonly found in schools are fighting and assault, bullying, victimization, sexual attacks, theft or robbery, classroom disorder, use of weapons, and violent crime (Goodwin University, 2022). The school security threats in Nigeria have taken a new dimension with the increasing rate of terrorist activities including the kidnapping of students and staff, bombing of school buildings, shootings, suicide bombings, etc.

Theoretical Framework

This study was founded on Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, which was cited in Manga (2019). The theory emphasized that security is a basic human need for achievement of self-actualization. Given Nigeria's growing insecurity, it is clear that there is a significant gap between Maslow's theories, which emphasize the importance of security, and the extent to which school security is provided. Despite the rapid spread of terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and other security threats, Nigerian schools have taken few or no concrete steps to improve internal security and supplement the efforts of the military, police, and other state security agencies. The alleged use of military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists in Nigeria has exacerbated the situation. Thus, this paper examines the dilemma for Nigeria's education system as a result of terrorists' alleged use of military uniforms and vehicles, as well as the implications for future school security.

According to Kurtus (2022), the theory of security is to be aware of the types of possible attacks, as well as the motivations for attacks and your relationship to those motivations. Security is the prevention of an attack on a person, property, or organization. The security or defense against such a threat is to make it difficult to attack, threaten counter-measures, or launch an offensive attack on the source of the threat. This theory is relevant to this paper in the sense that school administrators need to be conversant with the types of possible attacks, motivation for attacks and school relationship with such motivation. They also need to be aware of the possible defenses measures against school attacks, so as to enhance school security in order to provide safe and conducive teaching and learning environment.

Terrorists' Reasons for Using Military Uniform and Vehicles

Tactic to gain access to strategic places of their target is one of the reasons terrorists use military uniform and vehicles in order to disguise as military personnel to enable them gain access to strategic locations of their target such as military barracks, market, places of worship, educational institutions, etc. United Kingdom Government (2021) posits that terrorists use of military uniforms and vehicles have been used as a tactic to get close to the intended target.

Terrorists use military uniform to set a trap for their victims. They do that in

order to create the impression that they are military personnel so as to trick travelers and military personnel on high ways by mounting roadblocks to enable them kidnap and easily attack military personnel. Sahara reporters (2020) reported that the Nigerian Army has reportedly lost one soldier in an ambush by Boko Haram insurgents, who appeared in military uniforms, were said to have mounted a roadblock on the highway in Borno State.

The terrorists use military uniform to boosts the morale of their members. The use of military fatigues and vehicles by the terrorists make them feel enthusiastic and willing to endure the sacrifices and hardship accompanied with terrorists' activities. They also perhaps use the military uniform as a camouflage in battle field. Terrorists use military uniforms as camouflage during battles with government security personnel in order to conceal or disguise themselves on the battlefield and avoid being easily identified.

The terrorists give the newly recruited members the impression that they are legitimate army by giving them military uniform. The terrorists supply their members with military uniforms to give them the impression that they are legitimate army. Hunter (2016) posits that in addition to recruiting foreign fighters, ISIS must arm, equip, and equip them with uniforms and boots in order to give them the impression of a legitimate army. The terrorists perhaps used military uniform in order to distinguish their members from the rest of the civilian population. This could be possible to help them identify themselves during attacks on villages, towns and so forth.

Terrorists' Sources of Military Uniforms and Vehicles

The terrorists usually carry out attacks on military formations. This could possibly help them get military uniforms and vehicles by assaulting military formations and stealing uniforms, ammunition, and vehicles, among other items. Al Jazeera Media Network (2021) reported that following an attack on a military base in Marte Local Government Area in Borno State, Nigeria, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) issued a message on Telegram through its Amaq news channel, claiming responsibility for the incident. ISIL claimed that seven persons had been killed and one had been arrested, and that its forces had seized guns, ammunition, and six four-wheel-drive vehicles, as well as burning down the army barracks, without providing any additional information.

Figure 2: Terrorists Attack Scen



Source: Sahara reporters (2020, para. 2)

The terrorists could have possibly been supplied with military outfits and ammunition by certain corrupt and untrustworthy state security employees for personal benefit at the expense of state security. Owolabi; Maishanu (2021) reported that the Zamfara State Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor at a press conference stated that following community driven-intelligence, the military has arrested an army officer and his girlfriend who were engaged in helping the bandits with military uniforms and ammunitions in active connivance with other saboteurs.



Figure 3: a picture of Bello Turji, one of the Bandits' leaders in police uniform and some of his gang members in military uniform

Source: Arewa Intelligence (2022, January 1, para. 1)

The terrorists could also possibly purchase their weapons and other military fatigues from some sources well known to them (black market). Parkinson and Akingbule (2021) reported that "one former kidnapper, Auwal Daudawa, who turned himself in to the government in exchange for amnesty, said last month that buying guns in the country's north was now like 'buying bread'"(para. 8). Parkinson and Akingbule further said that Abubakar Bello, the governor of Niger state, indicated that the mediation policy had largely failed because some of the criminals had used government funds to buy additional weapons. Similarly, Ewepu (2021) reported that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have opposed alleged payment of ransom by government to bandits and kidnappers to free victims. Ewepu further posits that some of them expressed worry over the implication of this supposed ransom payment for national security is that it might lead to anarchy if these groups use the money to buy weapons and continue to terrorize innocent people.

It was also alleged that terrorists got their supply of weapons, uniforms and finances from foreign terrorists groups. This allegation is in line with Hunter (2016) who posits that in addition to recruiting foreign fighters, ISIS must arm, equip, and equip them with uniforms and boots in order to give them the impression of a legitimate army. On March 15, Spanish police officers seized the contents of a container at the Spanish port of Algeciras (Cádiz) and two more in Valencia. Five tons of perfectly wrapped and labeled packages containing 20,000 brand-new military uniforms enough to supply an entire army alleged to have belong to ISIS member.



Figure 4: Military uniforms meant for Islamic State and seized at the port of Valencia.
Source: Hunter (2016, para. 1)

The terrorists groups could also possibly purchase new brand vehicles and paint them by themselves to look like military vehicles. This could be possible because it is one of the easiest ways for them to get the camouflage vehicles which they usually use to deceive their victims to see them as legitimate military personnel so as not to easily scare them (the terrorists' victims) away for easy attack.

Terrorist groups could also buy new brand uniforms and sew them themselves to resemble military uniforms. This is possible because it is one of the simplest ways for them to obtain the camouflage uniform that they usually use to fool their victims into thinking they are legitimate military personnel in order not to scare them (the terrorists' victims) away for easy attack.

Consequences of Using Military Uniform and Vehicles by Terrorists

The use of military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists can result to mass killing of civilians because it enable them to penetrate strategic locations such as market, places of worship, educational institutions, etc. to carry out their attacks. It was reported by Wikipedia (2013) that during the attack in Gujba College in Yobe State in which about 44 students and staff were killed, one of the survivors reported that the attackers drove into the college in two double-cabin pickup all-terrain vehicles. Some of the attackers were wearing Nigerian military uniforms.

The use of military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists could also possibly results to mass kidnapping. Mounting of checkpoints on highways by the Boko haram and Bandits terrorists in military uniforms and vehicles has resulted to mass kidnapping of civilians. Sahara reporters (2021) reported that the Boko haram insurgents, who were in military uniforms, were said to have placed a roadblock on the highway with five Hilux vans before attacking a large convoy of commuters at Garin-Kuturu near Auno in Konduga Local Government Area of Borno State and took away most of the passengers while some few fled into the bush.

The use of military uniforms and vehicles by terrorists could results to increase in military funding and decrease in education budgetary allocation. Attacks on military facilities by terrorists to source military weapons, fatigues, and vehicles can result in deficiencies in military equipment that needs to be replaced, which in turn results in an increase in government allocation to the defense ministry and decreases in allocation to other sectors of the economy, such as education. According to Shimawua (2020) Federal Government of Nigeria has boosted defense votes from N100 billion in 2010 to N927 billion in 2011, to N1 trillion in 2012. Olufemi (2015), also reports that the federal security sector has received N4.62 trillion in funding over the last five years.

Decrease in military equipment is also one of the consequences of terrorists using military uniforms and vehicles. Attacks on military formations and stealing of military gadgets, vehicles, and fatigues by terrorists result in a decrease in military equipment on the part of government troops. It was reported that Nigerian military claims that some of its personnel are selling Boko Haram weaponry and ammunition (Associated Press, 2016).

Terrorists' use of military uniforms and vehicles leads to an increase in attacks on civilians and military, compounding the country's security challenges. This is possible because without military vehicles and uniforms, some strategic areas of attacks, such as military formations, police stations, places of worship, markets, and motor parks, would be difficult for terrorists to access, whereas with military vehicles and uniforms, they could easily gain access and carry out attacks.

The use of military uniforms and vehicles could lead to an increase in the rate of dropout from schools. An increase in security challenges results in an increase in school attacks, which will in turn increase the rate of dropout. The Sun News (2021) reported that already, some parents have withdrawn their children from the affected (attacked) schools. The Sun News also posits that, according to the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Nigeria, in the North East region, not less than 600,000 children are out of school and more than 1.1 million others need support to stay in school. About 10 abductions were recorded in the past 12 months in which 1,436 students were taken hostage.

Future of school security in Nigeria

The future of school security in Nigeria necessitates proactive and coordinated security methods on the part of school administrators. Given the country's level of insecurity, this paper submits that the future of school security can be summarized as follows:

a. In Nigeria, there is a strong link between national security and school security. Schools, as a microcosm of society within a larger society, are inextricably linked to the country's security challenges. When the country is at peace, schools will be at peace as well, and vice versa.
b. Frequent terrorist attacks on schools may reduce daily school attendance, leading to an increase in the rate of dropout in Nigeria..
c. Terrorist attacks on schools in Nigeria have instilled fear in teachers and students, potentially leading to poor concentration on teaching and learning in schools.
d. Attacks on schools could possibly lead to destruction of school felicities such as classrooms, libraries, laboratories, offices, hostels, staff quarters, and so forth.
e. School insecurity could possibly results to loss of teaching manpower. Teachers could be killed during attacks which would reduce the manpower availability in the education sector.
f. Students and parents avoid boarding schools due to frequent attacks on schools, especially boarding schools. This would result to systematic destruction of boarding school system in Nigeria.

Challenges of school security management in Nigeria

1. Inadequate deployment of police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) personnel to protect schools across the country especially boarding schools.



Figure 5: Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Camera in a classroom
Source: Shutterstock (2021, para.1)

2. Inadequate mobilization of Non-Governmental Organisations to collaborate with government in fencing all schools and provide CCTV Camera so as to improve school safety in the country.

3. None constitution of school based security committee by School administrators, which should comprise of all stakeholders in the education sector.
4. Poor orientation of school administrators on how to identify fake state security personnel at all times.
5. Inadequate strategies by government troop in identifying and prosecuting the culprits among state security personnel who are sabotaging the effort of government in the fight against terrorists.
3. School administrators should ensure that school based security committee is constituted, which should comprise of all stakeholders in the education sector.
4. Government troop should equip school administrators to have a tactic of identifying fake state security personnel at all times.
5. Government should identify and prosecute the culprits among state security personnel who are sabotaging the effort of government in the fight against terrorists.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the future of school security will require proactive and collaborative efforts of all educational stakeholders due to the increasing security challenges in the country resulting from an increase in attacks on educational institutions, especially with the deceptive tactics of terrorists using military uniforms and vehicles.

Suggestions

In view of the above therefore, the following suggestions were put forward:

1. Government should employ more and deploy enough security personnel to protect schools across the country especially boarding schools.
2. School Based Management Committee (SBMC) should mobilise Non-Governmental Organisations to collaborate in order to fence all schools and provide CCTV Camera so as to improve school safety in the country.

REFERENCES

Al Jazeera Media Network (2021, January16). Armed group captures military base in northeast Nigeria**.** https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/16/armed-group-captures-military-base-in-northeast-nigeria

Arewa Intelligence (2022, January 1). Shugaban yan bindiga Bello Turji yana raye. https://scontent.fabv3-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t39.30808-6/fr/cp0/e15/q65/271148001_140777445013982_777469470581358112_n.jpg?_nc_cat=103&ccb=1-5&_nc_sid=110474&efg=eyJpIjoidCJ9&_nc_eui2=AeG8-jbrxEZFWXGLAr3U7gsdcfqw-9lJg_Rx-rD72UmD9JcekgLUse_YBZZ0Bp-JImqH16aNSo-klhbu8Q_j04bj&_nc_ohc=NdClnE55HnQAX-6bZG9&_nc_zt=23&_nc_ht=scontent.fabv3-1.fna&oh=00_AT-TZWBxQJn25Jcnmu39wJTZ6U7wAeyQXFrjFLwxj5ErNQ&oe=61D5863D

Associated Press (2016, September 04). Nigerian Military: Some Officers Selling Arms to Boko Haram. *Voice of America (VOA).* https://www.voanews.com/a/nigerian-military-some-officers-selling-arms-to-boko-haram/3493038.html

Ewepu, G. (2021, March 25) Insecurity: CSOs oppose govt's alleged payment of ransom to bandits, kidnappers. Vanguard news. https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/03/insecurity-csos-oppose-govts-

alleged-payment-of-ransom-to-bandits-kidnappers/

Federal Bureau of Investigation (30 July, 2022). Terrorism 2002-2005. https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/terrorism-2002-2005#:~:text=Terrorism%20is%20defined%20in%20the,Section%200.85).

Goodwin University (2022, July 14). Growing importance of school safety and security training. https://www.goodwin.edu/enews/growing-importance-of-school-safety-and-security/

Hunter, S. (2016, APR 12). Who is providing the army uniforms for Islamic State? EL PAIS. https://english.elpais.com/elpais/2016/04/11/inenglish/1460370181_128829.html

Kurtus, R. (23 November, 2022) Theory of Security. School for champion. Retrieved from https://www.school-for-champions.com/security/theory_of_security.htm#.Y8wuuXbMLDc

Military Uniform. (n.d.). *Definitions.net.* Retrieved August 3, 2022, from https://www.definitions.net/definition/MILITARY+UNIFORM

Manga, S. D. (2019). "Assessment of causes and forms of insecurity in educational institutions in Kebbi State: implications for school administration", *International Journal of Current Research* 11(10), 7676-7680

Mubita, K. (2021). Understanding School Safety and Security: Conceptualization and Definitions. Journal of Lexicography and Terminology, 5(1), 76-86. https://journals.unza.zm/index.php/jlt76 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353702472_Understanding_School_Safety_and_Security_Conceptualization_and_Definitions [accessed Jul 14 2022].

Nabih (2021, August 31). Taliban Terrorists Wear Full US Military Uniforms & Gear; Inspect America's Arsenal. Republic world news. https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/watch-taliban-terrorists-wear-full-us-military-uniforms-and-gear-inspect-americas-arsenal.html

Olufemi, J. (2015, June 18,). Nigeria spends N4.62 trillion on National Security in 5 years, yet widespread insecurity remains. *Premium times News.* https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/185285-nigeria-spends-n4-62-trillion-on-national-security-in-5-years-yet-widespread-insecurity-remains.html

Owolabi, F. (2021, March 5). Army officer 'supplying ammunition and uniform to bandits' arrested in Zamfara. The cable news. https://www.thecable.ng/army-officer-supplying-ammunition-and-uniform-to-bandits-arrested-in-zamfara

Parkinson, J. & Akingbule, *G.* (2021, March 23). Why Nigerian Schoolchildren Keep Getting Kidnapped: A Brutal Business Model That Pays. Dow Jones and Company, inc.. https://www.wsj.com/articles/kidnapping-schoolchildren-in-nigeria-becomes-big-business-11616511947

Sahara reporters (2020, Dec 20). Boko Haram Terrorists in Military Camouflage Ambush Nigerian Soldiers, Kill One. http://saharareporters.com/2020/12/20/boko-haram-terrorists-military-camouflage-ambush-nigerian-soldiers-kill-one

Sahara reporters (2021, FEB. 25). boko haram terrorists abduct dozens on damaturu-maiduguri road, burn two vehicles. http://saharareporters.com/2021/02/25/boko-haram-terrorists-abduct-dozens-damaturu-maiduguri-road-burn-two-vehicles

Shutterstock (2021, December 28). CCTV Security monitoring student in classroom at school. Security camera surveillance for watching and protect group of children while studying. https://www.shutterstock.com/search/security+camera+school

Shimawua, D. (2020). Corruption and National Security: The Military Campaign against Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Public Policy, Administration and Development Strategies (IJARPPADS). 4(1).* ISSN 2489-012X. http://internationalpolicybrief.org/images/2020/MARCH/IJARPPADS/ARTICLE9.pdf

The Sun News (2021, September 22). School abductions and the future of Nigeria. https://www.sunnewsonline.com/school-abductions-and-the-future-of-nigeria/

Tsokar, K. (2016, March 20). Troops kill seven terorists, recover military uniforms, arms. The guardian news. https://guardian.ng/news/troops-kill-seven-terrorists-recover-military-uniforms-arms/

United ingdom Government (2021). Foreigntravel advice: Nigeria. https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/nigeria/terrorism

Wikipedia (2013, September 29). Gujba college massacre. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujba_college_massacre